

MARY HARTMAN

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EPISODE AIR #189

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CAST OF CHARACERS

MARY	LOUISE LASSE
TOM	GREG MULLAVEY
MARTHA	DODY GOODMAN
HEATHER	CLAUDIA LAMB
GRANDPA	VICTOR KILIAN
CATHY	DEBRALEE SCOTT
MRS. DELOREAN	IRIS KORN
MERLE JEETER	DABNEY COLEMAN
PAT GIMBLE	SUSAN BROWNING
GARTH GIMBLE	MARTIN MULL
DETECTIVE H.V. JOHNSON	RON FEINBERG
CHRISTINE ADDAMS	ANDRA AKERS
BRIAN ADDAMS	JOHN FINK
BEN YODER	
MR. BLANKENBUSH	

SETS

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ACT ONEMARY'S BEDROOM - LATE

MARY AND TOM IN BED. BOTH ARE AWAKE STARING AT THE CEILING. THERE IS A MOMENT OF SILENCE.

MARY

Tom?

TOM

Huh?

MARY

You awake?

TOM

Uh huh.

PAUSE.

MARY

Tom, I want to thank you for ordering the thirteen cubic foot freezer. I mean, that will be such a help in the kitchen if we ever buy a whole cow.

TOM

Good.

MARY

You haven't bought a whole cow, have you, Tom?

TOM

Why would I buy a whole cow?

MARY

You've bought so much lately. I mean,
it isn't beyond the realm of possibility
for you to buy a whole cow.

TOM

I didn't buy a whole cow.

MARY

I'm glad, because there's something very
upsetting about seeing all those steaks
and ribs and hamburgers in the freezer
and knowing that if you put them all
together you'd have a whole cow. You know
what I mean?

TOM

Mary, why are you talking about hamburgers?

It's late!

MARY

Did you buy anything else that you
haven't mentioned? Not that I care,
really, but it's nice to know what's
going to be delivered.

TOM

Mary, what are you trying to say?

MARY

I'm just a little worried about all the
spending that's all.

TOM

There's nothing to worry about, okay?

Nothing. Everything is fine.

MARY

Those pre-Christmas Christmas gifts you
gave everyone were very nice, but they
were all very expensive!

TOM

I'm telling you, Mary, don't worry about
it. I can afford them.

THERE IS A PAUSE.

MARY

How?

TOM

My God, Mary, will you leave me alone!

MARY

I'm just asking, Tom. I'm a little
concerned with all the spending.

TOM

Alright! So, you're concerned! How
many times do you have to say it? I'm
telling you there's nothing to worry
about so will you just forget it.

MARY

(QUICKLY) Okay, Tom. Okay. I won't
say anything more about it.

PAUSE.

TOM

Everything I'm doing, I'm doing for you and Heather. Do you think I care about all this stuff? It's for my family, not me.

MARY

Tom, this may come as a surprise to you but Heather does not want a 13 cubic foot freezer.

TOM

Come on, Mary, you know what I mean. I want a better life for all of us, is that so bad?

MARY

What's wrong with the life we already have?

TOM

Nothing. Except it's not enough. Why should we settle when we could have so much more? I don't want to just be a bread winner for my family. I want to be a hero.

MARY

There are other ways to be a hero, Tom. Rescue us from a towering inferno or save us from a giant shark. But, you don't have to go into debt to be a hero.

TOM

Mary, we may never have a shot at all this again.

MARY

Tom, all I want is for us to be happy.

TOM

Just because we have something for a change doesn't mean we can't be happy.

The trouble with you is you don't think big enough. My God, you want to end up like your mother?

MARY

Ma doesn't have it so bad.

TOM

She can't even pay the mortgage on the house.

MARY

Can we pay the mortgage on our house?

TOM

What?

MARY

Right now, is there enough money in the bank for us to make a payment?

TOM

(OVERLY DEFENSIVE) My God, you try to please somebody and it comes right back in your face. The trouble is, you don't want me to be anybody! That's it in a nutshell, isn't, Mary?

MARY

I think you're already somebody! What are you talking about?

TOM

You probably would have liked it better
if I stayed at the plant... going nowhere.
Would that make you happy?

MARY

Tom, all I want is for you to be happy.
If you're happy then I'm happy.

TOM

Alright. I'm happy. Are you satisfied?
Will you quit buggin' me. I am very happy.
Okay? Now I don't want to talk about it
any more. I want to go to sleep.

TOM ROLLS AWAY FROM MARY. MARY
LOOKS AT HIM FOR A MOMENT.

TOM (CONT'D)

It's like you're putting a corpse on me.
You don't want to see all these good
things happen.

MARY

Of course, I do.

TOM

Well it's going to happen, no matter
what you think. You'll see. You'll see.

CLOSEUP OF A VERY WORRIED TOM.

SLOW FADE

TOM (CONT'D)

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You don't want to see all these good
things happen.

MARY

Of course, I do.

TOM

Well it's going to happen, no matter what
you think. You'll see. You'll see.

CLOSEUP OF A VERY WORRIED TOM.

SLOW FADE.

ACT TWOTHE PLANT CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

GARTH AND BEN YODER ARE EATING
THEIR LUNCH. BEN IS A BIG
CHEERFUL GUY WHO ASKS LITTLE
FROM LIFE AND THEREFORE GETS A
LOT.

GARTH

I don't care what anyone says. Making it
in this world is dumb luck and knowing
the right people. I never had anyone
help me and I never had any luck. I have
executive ability and look what I'm doing.
Sometimes I get so disgusted. I think the
only answer is packing it all in!

BEN

I don't have those problems. Hell, give
me a steady job, a six pack and a football
game on the TV and I feel like a king.

GARTH

(NOT REALLY MEANING IT) You're one of
the lucky ones.

BEN

Don't I know it!

TOM ENTERS THE CAFETERIA.

TOM

Hey, Garth, how you doing?

GARTH

Tom! What are you doing here?

TOM

Just thought I'd drop in and see if any of the guys are around. I was looking for Mr. Blankenbush. He's not in his office.

GARTH

Do you know Ben Yoder?

BEN

We seen each other around. How you doin', Tom?

TOM

I'm good, Ben. And you?

BEN

Fine. Just real fine. But look at you! Man, that's a good lookin' suit you're wearin'.

TOM

Yeah, well, it's the job. You gotta dress up when you're working with the public all the time, you know.

GARTH

Doesn't it make you feel good getting up in the morning and putting on a nice fresh shirt and a tie?

BEN

Hell, I haven't had a tie on since I
went to my cousin Sally's shotgun
wedding! I hate ties.

TOM

You get kind of used to them after a
while. And clean hands. Man, my hands
have been clean for months. You haven't
seen Mr. Blankenbush, have you?

BEN

Uh-uh. You don't miss working here at
the plant at all?

TOM

I miss the guys. I mean, most of my
friends are here. But I sure don't miss
the work. Hell, I wouldn't come back here
if it was the last place on earth. For
one thing, I got used to making a
little money for a change... you know
what I mean?

BEN

It don't bother me none at all. Course,
I'm out on the truck all day. That
makes a big difference. I might not
like being locked up in the plant.

GARTH

But, even out on the truck, you're not
getting rich!

BEN

No, but I'm makin' more than I need. If I had a wife and kids, it might be a different story.

GARTH

Well, I got a wife and a kid so I'd better get back to work.

BEN

Me too. I got a run to make. Hey, Tom, good seein' you again.

TOM

Same here, Ben.

BEN

I'm glad everything's goin' so good for you.

TOM

Thanks. Garth, I'll see you around.

GARTH

Yeah.

MR. BLANKENBUSH, A MIDDLE-AGED MAN, WEARING A SUIT ENTERS. GARTH AND BEN AD LIB "HELLO'S" AS THEY LEAVE.

TOM

Mr. Blankenbush! You're just the man I wanted to see. I stopped by your office.

MR. BLANKENBUSH IS GETTING COFFEE FROM THE VENDING MACHINE.

BLANKENBUSH

They told me. Good to see you again,
Tom. You certainly are looking
successful!

TOM

Oh, I'm doing just great. No kidding,
it's been terrific.

BLANKENBUSH

I'm glad to hear it.

HE SITS AT THE TABLE AND TOM
SITS WITH HIM.

BLANKENBUSH (CONT'D)

So, what can I do for you?

TOM

Oh, well, the other day, something
popped into my head and I thought
I'd check it out with you. (HE DOESN'T
QUITE KNOW HOW TO SAY IT)

BLANKENBUSH

Okay, what is it?

TOM

Not that it's real important, but I
was thinking when I was just sitting
around the other day. And, what
popped into my head was... I think I
have six hundred dollars in the credit
union.

BLANKENBUSH

No, I don't think so, Tom.

TOM

Now, wait. When I left, if you remember, I wasn't all that sober... you know what I mean? And I remember that I had six hundred dollars in the credit union. What I don't remember is taking it out.

BLANKENBUSH

But, you did take it out. When a man leaves the plant, all of his records are carefully checked... I check them personally. And, yours are clear. You have nothing left in the credit union.

TOM

You're sure, huh?

BLANKENBUSH

Absolutely sure. There's nothing there.

TOM

Well, I just thought I'd check. Not that it's important. I just hate to leave any loose ends, you know what I mean. But, it's not important. Really, it's not important. Really, it's not important at all.

CLOSEUP OF TOM THE PRETENDER.

SLOW FADE.

ACT THREEMARY'S KITCHEN, DAY

MARY IS OPENING AN ENORMOUS PILE
OF CHRISTMAS CARDS AND HOLIDAY
MAIL.

MARY

(OPENING A CARD) From Cousin Joe and
Roberta and Little Skipper. Here we are
on the banks of the Ohio River. Wish
you were here. Merry Christmas. (LOOKS
CLOSER AT PICTURE) What are they doing
on the banks of the Ohio River in the
dead of winter?

MARY TAKES THE NEXT CARD, OPENS
IT.

MARY (CONT'D)

(READING) To Mary, Tom, and Heather,
with love, Aunt Bettina. Honestly. A
grown woman of her stature sitting on
Santa's knee. I wonder if she knows him
personally?

OPENING ANOTHER ONE.

MARY (CONT'D)

From the National Center of Female Sexual
Activities. What???

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

(READING) Dear Sister, we are sending you this questionnaire on female sexual response to poll the nation's women and reveal their innermost feelings about sexual relations. This questionnaire is for women only -- please guard it from the men in your life as it is highly confidential. Sponsored by Women as National Resources Committee, Washington, D.C.

MARTHA RUSHES IN, CLOSES DOOR BEHIND HER.

MARTHA

Mary. I just got my first X-rated Christmas card.

MARY

Ma -- no -- you, too? From the Sexual Activities Center?

MARTHA

Yes. And I can't believe my own eyes. Asking such personal questions -- I wouldn't even tell George some of those answers.

MARY

(DRAWING CURTAINS) Ma -- I'm not sure what this is -- but it could be against the law --

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

-- and Tom's on the new committee to screen pornography in the home -- from the community -- or whatever -- and Detective Johnson is a friend of the family even though you did break up with him...

CATHY RUSHES IN, WITH HER QUESTIONNAIRE.

CATHY

Mary! ?

PAT GIMBLE RUSHES IN.

PAT

Mary, Mary -- you're not going to believe -- oh. Oh no, did all of you -- ??

MARY

Yes.

PAT

You, too, Mrs. Shumway?

MARTHA

Well, for heaven's sake, I'm not that over the hill.

MARY

I don't understand. What's going on here? Did all of the women in Fernwood receive these questionnaires?

PAT

I don't know, Mary, but if Garth ever sees it...

MARY

Or Tom...

MARTHA

Or George -- wherever he is --

PAT

What should we do?

MARY

We'll sit down --

(EVERYONE SITS DOWN)

MARY (CONT'D)

-- and read them.

SHE OPENS IT AGAIN, PEEKS
CAUTIOUSLY AT IT. OTHERS DO
THE SAME.

MARY (CONT'D)

Ma. Look at these questions. "How often
do you have a peak experience? When,
how, and how many times in the last year?"
How many times??

PAT

"Do you peak alone or with a partner?"

MARY

"What kind of partner?" What kind?

Oh no, A.C./D.C.

MARTHA

Please, Mary, not that electrical talk
again. If we have a snow storm we could
have a blackout and I'm worried enough --

MARY

Ma -- please -- what we do not need at a time like this is a blackout. Group gropes are very bizarre.

CATHY

"How well do you know your own body? Please describe how best your body can be stimulated." I would be pregnant at a time like this.

MARY

"Do you do it alone?"

MARTHA

"What kinds of movements do you make?"

PAT

"What positions do you prefer?"

CATHY

"How flexible are you?"

MARTHA

Is this anything like belly dancing?

MARY

"Please describe your body's reactions to the act -- muscles tense, relaxed, moving -- facial expressions." Facial expressions?? I've heard of using mirrors, but...

CATHY

"Are you married or single?" Strike me out there.

PAT

"Where are your feet?"

MARTHA

"Do you enjoy outside lovers? How many?
How many at a time?" Mary!

MARY

Hold it. Hold it right there. What are
we going to do with these?

PAT

Well, it says here they're conducting a
survey to tell what pleases women the
most.

CATHY

It's about time.

MARY

Is it okay to do this at Christmas-time?
I mean, Dr. Medwick told me all kinds of
things that happen to you in the Bible
if you mmmmm-mmmmm with the wrong
person -- plagues and blights and skin
diseases --

PAT

I wonder who's sending these out? Who
reads them?

MARTHA

Well, H.V. and Merle did bust the
prostitution ring -- so it can't be
those kind of ladies...

MARY

Those kind of ladies ought to fill out these forms -- they'd have enough material to make a hit movie from their answers.

MARTHA

What do you suppose the federal government wants with this kind of information?

MARY

Classified information -- probably for Congressmen to read up in the archives on how to be great lovers.

CATHY

It sounds like an interesting idea, Mary.

MARY

Alright. Let's take a vote. All in favor of filling out these questionnaires -- in strictest confidence, no cheating and no peeking -- say "ay."

CATHY

Ay.

PAT

Uh, ay.

MARTHA

Ay, ay, ay. I might as well learn something out of middle age.

MARY

Good. Then everybody go home and fill them out -- and remember -- no men are allowed to see them anywhere. It's for women only.

MARTHA/PAT/CATHY

Right.

MARY

And tell the truth -- the whole truth --

'cause that's the way to do research.

(BEAT) I wonder if Gore Vidal is involved
in this?

FADE OUT.

ACT FOURSCENE ISHUMWAY KITCHEN, DAY

CATHY, SOLA, AT TABLE EATING
AN ENORMOUS ICE CREAM SUNDAE
WITH CELERY STALKS AND CARROTS.

SFX: DOORBELL RINGS

CATHY OPENS DOOR TO ADMIT BRIAN
AND CHRISTINE DRESSED SMARTLY
FOR WINTER - CHRISTINE SHOWING.

CATHY

Christine -- Brian -- what are you doing
here?

CHRISTINE

Just spreading holiday cheer -- (LOOKING
AROUND) We figured you could use some.
Early American -- how very patriotic.

CATHY

Thanks. Can I get you anything?

CHRISTINE

Do you have any ice cream?

CATHY

Sure. Brian?

BRIAN

No, thanks.

CATHY GETS A DISH AND SPLITS IT
WITH CHRISTINE.

CHRISTINE

My stomach's been so queasy lately. This
hits the spot. (BEAT) Cathy, we have a
problem.

CATHY

Oh?

CHRISTINE

Daddy will be home any day now so we
can't talk freely there. We can't have the
baby in a hospital because daddy would want
to be there.

CATHY

(IN FEAR) You mean I won't even be at a
hospital?

CHRISTINE

(CONTINUING) What I thought is we could
book a room at Fernwood Receiving in my
name -- Then as soon as the pains start
coming every five minutes, we'll tell
Daddy to leave for the hospital.

BRIAN

And as soon as Cathy delivers the baby
we'll whisk it away with you to the
hospital and say it arrived early.

CHRISTINE

We had it in the limousine.

BRIAN

The chauffeur delivered it. We'll give him a bonus. A week in Cincinnati.

CHRISTINE

(DELIGHTED) How perfectly terrifying!

Daddy will be so proud I did it!

CATHY

You did it? What about me? Where am I having this baby, in the streets?

CHRISTINE

Oh, dear. That wouldn't be very sanitary. We'll get a doctor to assist us -- someone very discreet, very low-key, and very good at espionage.

BRIAN

Dr. Fermin.

CHRISTINE

Who is tacky, but fine.

CATHY

But where do I have the baby?

MARY ENTERS CARRYING A FRUITCAKE.

MARY

Cathy -- you're home.

MARY, BRIAN, AND CHRISTINE EX-
CHANGE HELLOS. THEN:

MARY (CONT'D)

(LOW, TO CATHY) Cathy, why are they here? Are you home for good?

CATHY

No, Mary. We're trying to solve a problem.

CHRISTINE

Privately.

MARY

Oh, well -- don't let me interrupt.

(SHE GOES TO REFRIGERATOR WITH CAKE,
PEEK'S OVER DOOR) I can't hear a thing.
(DUCKS BACK DOWN)

BRIAN

We need an inconspicuous place for
Cathy -- totally ordinary --

CHRISTINE

Comfortable and clean for the baby --

MARY JUMPS OUT FROM BEHIND THE
REFRIGERATOR DOOR.

MARY

My house!

CHRISTINE, BRIAN AND CATHY
REACT.

FADE OUT.

ACT FOURSCENE IISHUMWAY KITCHEN - SOMETIME LATER

MARY, CATHY, AND MARTHA.

MARTHA

... but why can't Cathy have her baby
in a hospital like everybody else.

CATHY

I have to have it in Mary's house
because Christine's father is going
to have to --

MARTHA

Oh, please don't tell me! It's too confusing
as it is.

HEATHER ENTERS, HOME FROM
SCHOOL.

HEATHER

Here you all are. (TO MARY) Give me the
key so I can get in the house.

MARY

Why are you in such a rush?

HEATHER

Well, if you guys don't want to talk to
me when I call, that's fine. I won't
say anything.

MARTHA

What did you have to say, darling?

MARY

Heather -- we want to know.

HEATHER

(MATTER-OF-FACTLY) Oh, nothing. Just
that I got a phone call from somebody that
sounded a lot like Grandpa George... Said
he was coming home.

AND WITH THAT HEATHER FLOUNCES
OUT THE DOOR.

MARTHA REACTS. MARY CATCHES
HER. CATHY CLUTCHES HER STOMACH
AND RUNS FOR THE BATHROOM.

MARY

This is either a Christmas miracle. Or
a very bad joke.

FADE OUT.